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Date: May 1, 2004
To: Wisconsin Foster Care Agencies
From: Kitty Kocol
Administrator
Subject: Foster Family Month

Across Wisconsin, we celebrate Foster Family Month in May and honor the foster families who dedicate their lives and homes to caring for children and helping families involved in the foster care system. In my first year as Administrator, I have had the opportunity to meet amazing families and foster care staff who do incredible work for children and families across the state.

To celebrate Foster Family Month this year, I have invited various foster parents, foster youth, foster care coordinators, adoption staff and tribal staff to a celebration with Governor Doyle. At this event, Governor Doyle will briefly address the group and then have lunch with the foster youth. The remaining people in attendance will meet with me for a discussion on the subject of a proposed Foster and Adoptive Resource Center. The Resource Center concept is one of a number of strategies we hope to pursue to improve our work with foster care and adoption over the coming years.

We have also listed resources that counties, tribes and private agencies may use to celebrate foster care on our web site at <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/children/foster>. On this web site, you will find a copy of the proclamation from Governor Doyle declaring May as Foster Family Month, a press release sent to the media, brochures about foster care and links to related web sites for additional information. In addition, Governor Doyle has written a letter to all foster parents across the state thanking them for their hard work and commitment. Foster parents should each receive a letter in the beginning of May, and copy of this letter will be included on the web site as well.

If you have any questions about this information or any resources on the Foster Care web site, please contact Kate Johnson at johnssk@dhfs.state.wi.us or (608) 266-6874. Thank you for your tireless dedication. You make an incredible difference for children and families in Wisconsin.